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**PCT/ZA03/00114**

12 SEP 2003

REC'D 07 OCT 2003	
WIPO	PCT

- 1) South African Patent Application No. **2002/6578** accompanied by a Provisional Specification was filed at the South African Patent Office on **16 August 2002** in the name of **GREENSPAN, Ian Wayne** in respect of an invention entitled: **"CONTAINER"**
- 2) The Photocopy attached hereto is a true copy of the provisional specification and drawing filed with South African Patent Application No. **2002/6578**.

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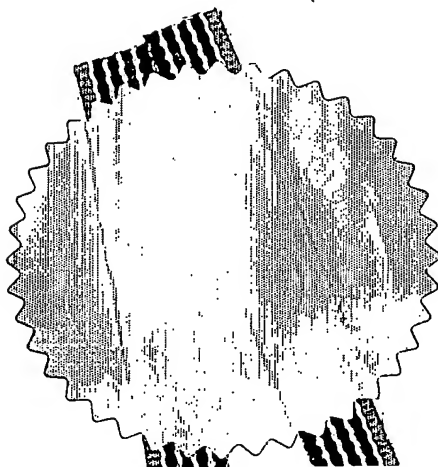
PRETORIA

in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie  
in the Republic of South Africa, this

4th

dag van  
day of

September 2003



*DISK 13*  
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Registrateur van Patente

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
PATENTS ACT, 1978

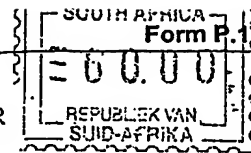
APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

(Section 30 (1) - Regulation 22)

The grant of a patent is hereby requested by the undermentioned applicant  
on the basis of the present application filed in duplicate.



PGHR  
229



OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO	
21	01 <b>2002/ 6578</b>

DMK REFERENCE
P24972ZA00

FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)	
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71	GREENSPAN, Ian Wayne
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ADDRESS(ES) OF APPLICANT(S)	
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	No. 8 Rathmines Road Hawkin's Estate 2192 South Africa
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TITLE OF INVENTION	
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54	CONTAINER
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THE APPLICANT CLAIMS PRIORITY AS SET OUT ON THE ACCOMPANING FORM P2 The earliest priority claimed is	
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THIS APPLICATION IS FOR A PATENT OF ADDITION TO PATENT APPLICATION NO.		21	01
THIS APPLICATION IS FRESH APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 AND BASED ON APPLICATION NO.		21	01

THIS APPLICATION IS ACCOMPANIED BY :	
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x	1a	A single copy of a provisional specification of 7 pages.	
	1b	Two copies of a complete specification of pages.	
	2a	Informal drawings of sheets.	
x	2b	Formal drawings of 1 sheets.	
	3	Publication particulars and abstract (form P8 in duplicate).	
	4	A copy of figure of the drawings for the abstract.	
	5	Assignment of invention (from the inventors) or other evidence of title.	
	6	Certified priority document(s).	
	7	Translation of priority document(s).	
	8	Assignment of priority rights.	
	9	A copy of form P2 and a specification of S.A. Patent Application.	21 01
	10	A declaration and power of attorney on form P3.	
	11	Request for ante-dating on form P4.	
	12	Request for classification on form P9.	
	13a	Request for delay of acceptance on form P4.	
	13b		

DATED 16 August 2002

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE	
74	D M Kisch Inc 66 Wierda Road East Wierda Valley SANDTON

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## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## PATENTS ACT, 1978

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION  
( Section 30 (1) - Regulation 27 )

OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO.		LODGING DATE		DMK REFERENCE
21	0102002/6578	22	16 August 2002	P24972ZA00
FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)				
71	GREENSPAN, Ian Wayne			
FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S)				
72	SULSKI, Warren Paul			
TITLE OF INVENTION				
54	CONTAINER			

**Introduction**

The invention relates to a container. More particularly, the invention relates to a container suitable for acting as a housing for an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium, vivarium or the like.

5

**Background to the invention**

There are various aquariums, herbariums, terrariums and vivariums known and available in the market place. One of the disadvantages of known systems and ecosystems of this nature is the presence of unwanted bacteria and moulds within the housing. Another disadvantage is the lack of physical cooperativeness between different such systems.

10

**Object of the invention**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel container suitable for acting as a housing for an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium, vivarium or the like that will overcome or at least minimize some of the disadvantages associated with known containers of this kind.

15

**Summary of the invention**

According to the invention there is provided a container suitable for use as an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium, vivarium or the like, characterized therein that the container constitutes a building unit which is suitably dimensioned for engaging complementarily shaped containers to form a display arrangement.

20

The container may comprise at least two substantially parallel walls.

Particularly, the container may be a substantially square or rectangular container comprising two substantially parallel sidewalls, two opposing substantially parallel end walls, and two parallel walls defining a floor and roof wall respectively of the container.

The container may include a substantially continuous interior wall surface.

Particularly, the container may include radiused corner zones defined between the walls of the container, and more particularly between neighboring interior wall surfaces. More particularly the container may be molded or blow-formed such that a continuous surface is defined between neighboring container walls with the absence of any joints between the walls.

The container may include at least one transparent wall. Preferably, the container is a wholly transparent container. In one form of the invention, the container is a glass brick dimensioned to engage similar glass bricks so as to form a display arrangement, such as a glass wall.

The container may include at least one aperture extending through a wall of the container for permitting access to contents within the container. For this purpose the container may include a tight-fitting plug for sealing the aperture. The plug may be of cork, wood, rubber, glass or any other material.

The container may also be suitable for housing and displaying decorative and/or ornamental matter, such as multi-colored cobble stones, sand or the like.

5 According to another aspect of the invention there is provided an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium comprising animal, plant and/or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter, the aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium being characterized therein that the matter is located within a glass brick.

10

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a terrarium which includes, as its housing, a hollow glass brick.

The terrarium may include a drainage system including a percentage of  
15 charcoal. The charcoal may comprise between 1 and 10% of a ground layer located in a bottom of the terrarium.

The terrarium further may be characterized therein that it is subjected to microwave treatment before any plant material is introduced into the terrarium  
20 so as to rid the container of potentially unwanted bacteria.

: According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a display arrangement comprising a series of containers, wherein each container includes animal, plant and/or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental  
25 matter.

The containers may be stacked upon one another or may otherwise be connected to one another.

- 5 According to yet a further aspect of the invention there is provided a wall structure comprising a series of containers, wherein each container includes animal, plant and/or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter.

- 10 More particularly, the wall may be a glass wall comprising a series of hollow glass bricks wherein each brick includes animal, plant and/or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter.

#### **Specific embodiment of the invention**

- 15 Without limiting the scope thereof, one embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to Figure 1, which is a perspective view of a container according to the invention where the container is acting as a housing for a terrarium.

- 20 A container according to the invention is generally designated by reference numeral 10. The invention provides a container 10 which is suitable for use as an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium (as illustrated), vivarium or the like. The container 10 is characterized therein that it constitutes a building unit which is suitably dimensioned for engaging complementarily shaped containers to form a display arrangement.

The container 10 comprises at least two substantially parallel walls.

Particularly, the container 10 is substantially square or rectangular container

10 comprising two substantially parallel sidewalls 12, two opposing

substantially parallel end walls 14, and two parallel walls defining a floor 16

5 and roof wall 18 respectively of the container 10.

The container 10 includes a substantially continuous interior wall surface.

Particularly, the container 10 includes radiused corner zones 20 defined

between the walls of the container 10, and more particularly between

10 neighboring interior wall surfaces. The applicant believes that the absence of

sealing material, such as silicon, between adjacent walls reduces the risk of

unwanted moulds and bacteria forming within the container.

The container 10 is preferably a wholly transparent container 10. In the

15 illustrated embodiment of the invention, the container 10 is a glass brick

dimensioned to engage similar glass bricks so as to form a display

arrangement, such as a glass wall. It will be appreciated that the container 10

alternatively may house and display decorative and/or ornamental matter,

such as multi-colored cobble stones, layers of different colored sands, glass

20 beads, or the like.

The container 10 also includes at least one aperture extending through a wall

of the container 10 for permitting access to contents 22 within the container

10. For this purpose the container 10 includes a tight-fitting plug 24, for


25 example of cork, wood, rubber or glass, for sealing the aperture.



In those cases where the container acts as a housing for a terrarium, as illustrated, the container includes a drainage system in the form of a layer of charcoal 26, which may be arranged beneath a subsequent layer of potting soil 28. The terrarium may be primarily self-sustaining in that it does not  
5 require water, nutrients or other additions, for at least a period of time which is in excess of that which is normally required for plant material.

It will be appreciated that many other embodiments of the invention may be possible without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as set out  
10 in the consistory clauses.

Dated this 16 day of August 2002

  
Patent Attorney / Agent for the Applicant

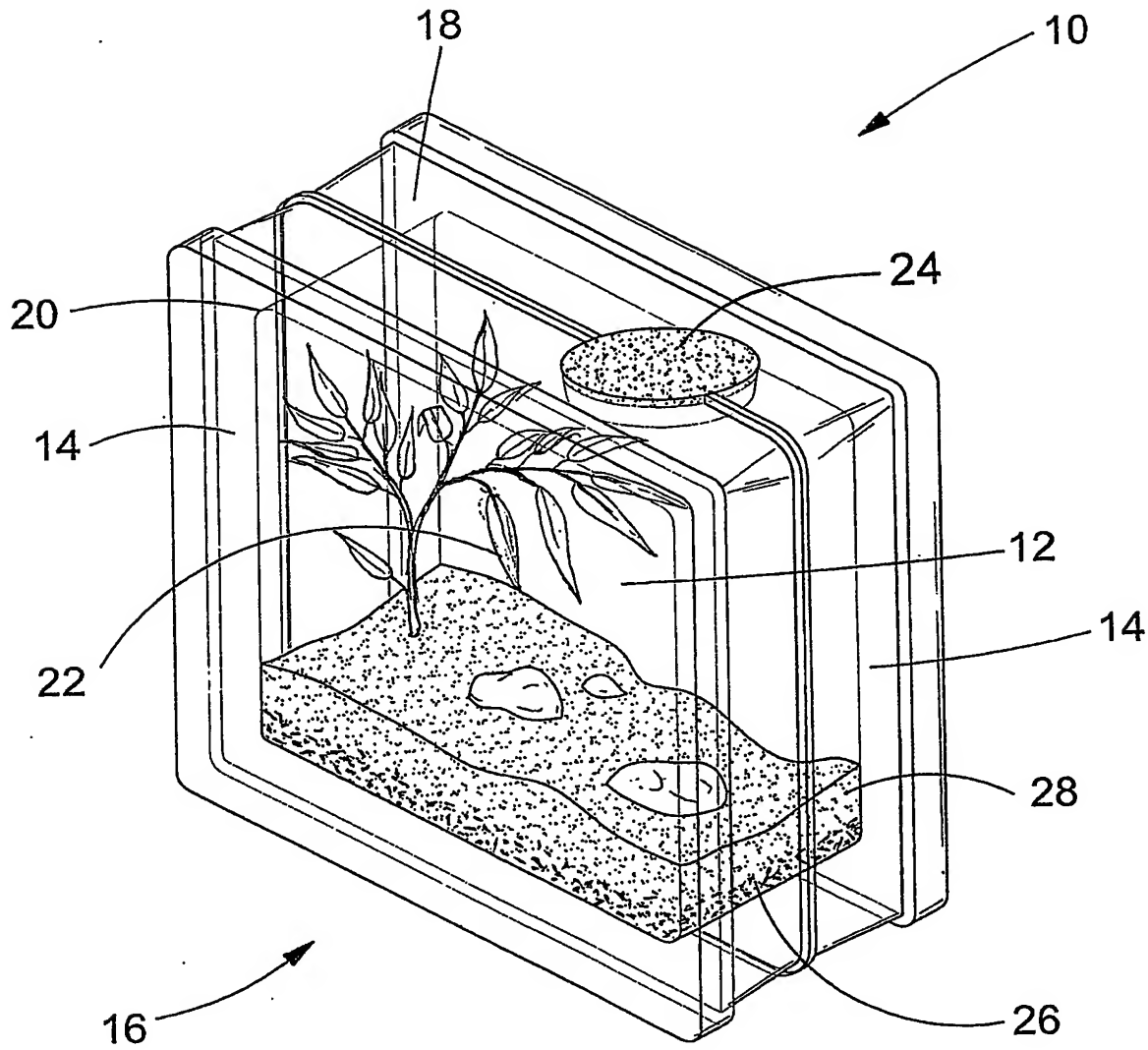


FIGURE 1

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